

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-24 have been cancelled and claims 25-36 have been added to the case.

Independent claims 25 and 31 have been added to recite that the user is utilizing a web browser to perform the interactions with the online database over a public network as claimed. As can be seen from FIGS. 2D-2T, the user interacts with the online database through a conventional web browser, and no additional software is needed.

Applicants wish to direct the Examiner's attention the Background section of the Specification, where problems in the art at the time of the filing of the parent case are explained. In 1995, there existed no easy manner in which to publish and update information on the Internet. In fact, the most common way to publish information was to fax or email information to an intermediary, such as an ISP, who would then publish the information. The problems associated with this process are detailed in the Background section.

The present invention solves these problems by allowing a user to create an entry, add content, and subsequently update the entry, all through an automated process. Key to this process is the Transaction ID. The ability to store and retrieve the various information and content provided by a user, and the ability to associate this with a particular entry is provided by the functionality of the Transaction ID. This is different than the use of cookies, which typically are used to collect information. Rather, the Transaction ID is the "glue" that ties together the entry, its content, and information about the entry and its owner, such as user and financial information.

The present invention as claimed does not require any such software be installed on either the server or clients machines, as the HTML-front ending tools of the present invention allow a user to interact directly with an online database through any machine running a standard web browser. FIGS 1A and 1B show how the HTML-front-ending tools receive page requests and return results in a page description language such as HTML. Applicants thus believe that the process as claimed is therefore a significant advance over the state of the art in 1995, and request reconsideration for this reason.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art of record does not teach or suggest allowing a user to interact with an online database as claimed. It is respectfully requested that the pending case be reconsidered in light of these Remarks and Amendments and moved to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is personally invited to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,
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